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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 3.6.2009
COM(2009) 254 final

2009/0072 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the European Year of Volunteering (2011)

{SEC(2009)725}

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Introduction

Volunteering is a core expression of civic participation and democracy, putting European values such as solidarity and non discrimination into action and contributing to the harmonious development of our societies. It plays an important role in sectors as varied and diverse as education, youth, culture, sport, environment, health, social care, consumer protection, humanitarian aid, development policy, research, equal opportunities and external relations. At the same time, volunteering is also an important learning opportunity because getting involved in voluntary work provides citizens with new skills and heightens their sense of belonging to society.

Volunteering therefore has twin benefits: it both contributes to the social cohesion of society with the results it achieves and the bonds of solidarity it creates and it helps the volunteers themselves by boosting their skills and personal development. These twin benefits make a real contribution to the EU's social agenda, which aims to create more opportunities for EU citizens, improve access to quality services and demonstrate solidarity with those who are affected negatively by change. In difficult economic times, it is even more important for the European Union to recognise the value of volunteering. In addition, from an international perspective, volunteering is an expression of solidarity with the developing world and an acknowledgement of the inter-dependence of all communities in an increasingly globalised world.

Europe has a strong tradition of volunteering, often based on membership of civil society organisations. Over the past decades, civic participation has undergone significant change as societies have moved towards greater individualism and put more emphasis on the values of autonomy and self-expression. This is a challenge for volunteering, since the sector now has to adapt to new types and forms of participation, often characterised by selective, short-term engagement. At national level, Member States and other stakeholders need to modernise their policies and infrastructure to allow more people to volunteer in different ways and stages of their life. There is a need to develop employer-supported volunteering, to find new ways to involve young people and to learn how to unlock the potential of older people.

A European Year of Volunteering will seek to promote deeper and more structured dialogue and exchange of good practices on these issues between authorities and other stakeholders in the Member States. It will thus help improve the conditions for volunteering in the European Union.

2. A European Year of Volunteering

2.1. Challenges and opportunities

EU Member States have a rich diversity of traditions, perceptions, cultures and legal frameworks regarding volunteering. Yet, despite the differences in national situations, all over Europe people engage in volunteering for basically the same underlying values and reasons. Helping others is important to them and the benefits for society are clear. Voluntary activities reduce racism and prejudice and contribute to intercultural and inter-religious dialogue. Volunteering includes all age groups and therefore has the potential to foster inter-generational solidarity. The active participation of young people in society can be fostered through volunteering. It also shows great potential when it comes to promoting active ageing

and addressing demographic change since it gives the opportunity to use older people's experience for the benefit of society.

Companies find value in supporting voluntary activity, often as part of their strategies for corporate social responsibility. Through its learning dimension and through the skills it provides, volunteering improves people's employability. It can also be a path to active engagement during periods of unemployment, helping people avoid marginalisation, fleshing out their profile as job seekers and facilitating reintegration in the labour market. This is particularly valuable now as societies face the consequences of the current economic crisis.

But as society changes, so do the demands that are put on people regarding education, careers and the time they can dedicate to their families and to leisure. These changes affect how much time people can give to volunteering, when and how they want to volunteer, and the expectations they have of the organisations they volunteer to assist. Competent authorities and civil society organisations in all Member States face, to varying degrees, the same challenges of encouraging more people to volunteer, making it easier for them to contribute, and ensuring adequate standards for the activities carried out. Appropriate incentives must be devised for individuals and companies. The right balance should be struck between achieving a higher degree of professionalism and preserving the freedom and flexibility that are such valued characteristics of the sector. In all Member States there are also real barriers to realising the potential positive impact of volunteering, such as the lack of awareness, information and support systems (training etc.), discouraging legal provisions, limited international exchange schemes and the absence of a legal status.

European volunteer organisations are aware of the fact that the skills and qualifications of the volunteers do not always match with the needs of developing countries. However, where care has been taken to match the skills and experience of volunteers with the development needs of a particular group or community, the volunteers are often able to make significant contributions to improving the quality of life for the community or to opening up a greater range of opportunities in an increasingly globalised world.

Volunteering is far from having fulfilled its potential. Although 3 out of 10 Europeans actively volunteer, close to 8 out of 10 consider helping others an important part of their life. The gap between actual and potential volunteers is even more significant among young people: although only 16% of young Europeans are engaged in voluntary activities, almost 3 in 4 are in favour of making more programmes encouraging voluntary work available. Big differences between countries prove both the need for and the potential of mutual learning. Real potential can also be unlocked by increasing the mobility of volunteers in the European Union.

Therefore we need to facilitate peer learning and awareness Europe-wide to boost the professionalization of the sector, so that the Member States and civil society can better meet the above-mentioned challenges. This will help unlock the potential of volunteering in Europe and step up delivery of the Union's social objectives.

2.2. Objectives and activities

In line with the EU's renewed social agenda, the overall purpose of the European Year will be to encourage and support — notably through exchanging experience and good practices — the efforts made by Member States, local and regional authorities and civil society to create the conditions conducive to volunteering in the European Union. Four objectives are proposed:

- (1) **Work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU** - To anchor volunteering as part of promoting civic participation and people-to-people activities in an EU context;
- (2) **Empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering** - To facilitate volunteering and to encourage networking, mobility, cooperation and synergies between volunteer organisations and other sectors in an EU context;
- (3) **Reward and recognise volunteering activities** - To encourage appropriate incentives for individuals, companies and volunteer-development organisations and gain more systematic recognition for volunteering by policy makers, civil society organisations and employers for skills and competences developed through volunteering.
- (4) **Raise awareness about the value and importance of volunteering** - To raise general awareness of the importance of volunteering as an expression of civic participation and an example of people-to-people activity which contributes to issues which are of common concern of all Member States, such as a harmonious societal development and economic cohesion.

In line with these objectives, the activities of the Year will focus at European level on the exchange of good practices and on communication and awareness-raising measures, such as high-visibility events involving all stakeholders. Similar activities will be run in the Member States through national coordination structures. An important aspect will be mobilising volunteer organisations and other stakeholders to launch and continue schemes during the Year.

Volunteering is a core part of several community programmes that mainly promote the mobility of volunteers, such as the Youth in Action programme — notably through the European Voluntary Service — the Life Long Learning programme and the Europe for Citizens programme. Organisations active in this field are also receive EU support in the fields of humanitarian aid, development policy, human rights, health and environment and consumer protection. This proposal therefore builds on the mobilisation efforts made under other EU programmes, which will be important vehicles for implementing the Year. Communication and awareness-raising schemes during the Year will be complemented by a critical mass of concrete projects related to volunteering in numerous sectors. All these projects (and the programmes which support them) will benefit from the additional visibility that the ‘European Year of Volunteering’ label will bring them and from the public awareness campaign.

3. Consultations

The Commission has been considering the greater role that Europe could play in the field of volunteering for some time. The European Voluntary Service was established in 1996. Since 2002 volunteering has been a key aspect of youth policy and one of the agreed common objectives within the Open Method of Coordination on youth policies. The Commission also consulted the European Economic and Social Committee in April 2006 on the future direction of volunteering. In its opinion of December 2006¹ the Committee recommended activities at European level to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering. This idea received wide

¹ Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee: ‘Voluntary activity: its role in European society and its impact’, Doc. SOC/243 — CESE 1575/2006.

support by key stakeholders and the European Parliament, which adopted a Resolution² to this end in July 2008 calling for the designation of 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering.

The Commission has held regular, open and transparent discussions on this initiative with the main stakeholders. In addition, a number of recent consultations have covered issues linked to volunteering:

- consultations relating to the Commission's current programmes on active citizenship, youth, culture and lifelong learning (education and training),
- the consultation process held as part of preparations for the new European framework on youth policy cooperation in the autumn of 2008.

The results of the consultations indicate that a proposal for a European Year of Volunteering would be welcomed by all stakeholders. The stakeholders highlighted the potential of designating a European Year in terms of communication and mobilisation and provided useful suggestions on the purpose and design of the initiative. The results of discussions with stakeholders have been used to define the objectives and points of action for the European Year. The run-up to the European Year will bring further opportunities for a broad range of stakeholders to contribute to its design and preparation.

4. Pertinence of the proposed instrument, subsidiarity and added value of EU involvement

The European Union has limited competence in the field of volunteering and its action should not go beyond supporting the efforts of the Member States. A European Year of Volunteering, respecting the principle of subsidiarity, is an adequate means to address the challenges presented above.

Exchanging information and raising awareness of the potential for a better use of volunteering as a form of civic participation will help the EU achieve its objectives, such as raising the standard of living and quality of life, contributing to a high level of employment, improving social cohesion and combating social exclusion.

To achieve these aims and the above-mentioned Community objectives, it is necessary to take coherent measures involving people of all age groups and which reflect the multidimensional nature of volunteering, going beyond the aspects of education or social inclusion. However, the Treaty does not explicitly provide the powers to underpin this action. Therefore, the Commission proposes basing the European Year of Volunteering on Article 308 of the Treaty, according to which the Council may take appropriate measures, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament.

The European Year will be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and with civil society organisations at different levels.

The objectives of the proposal cannot be achieved to a sufficient extent solely by action by the Member States, because action at national level alone would not reap the benefits of EU-wide exchanges, sharing experiences and good practice between Member States. Coordination at

² Written Declaration 0030/2008 of 15 July 2008.

EU level adds a European dimension and helps increase the impact of the European Year in terms of awareness-raising, visibility and transnational exchange of ideas and good practice.

The European Year of Volunteering can generate policy debates, encourage peer-learning among volunteer-development organisations and boost the exchange of good practice between the Member States to create the conditions conducive to volunteering, where people's willingness to engage in voluntary activities is matched by improved and more accessible opportunities.

The Year will raise awareness of the value of volunteering to foster social cohesion and improve people's employability. In this sense it addresses problems all Member States are facing. It will heighten the sense of belonging and commitment of citizens to their society at all levels — local, regional, national and European. Through transnational exchange of ideas and cooperation, the European Year will highlight the link between voluntary engagement at local level and its significance in the wider European context.

By participating in the European Year, volunteers, volunteer organisations and other stakeholders at local, regional, national and European level will have a greater impact and gain wider recognition for their efforts. The Year will generate a critical mass of activities and therefore help boost the impact of existing policies on volunteering.

5. Budget and implementation

The Commission will implement the decision at the Community level. The Member States will be strongly involved in the implementation of the year through their national coordination bodies which will receive Community co-financing. The Commission will also convene meetings of the national coordinators in order to coordinate the implementation. In view of the small budget, the proposal does not foresee a formal Committee to be involved in the implementation.

At the Community level, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will be associated in the activities of the European Year.

The budget for the 2011 European Year will be EUR 6 000 000. In addition, the Commission has proposed allocating EUR 2 000 000 under the preliminary draft budget for the year 2010 to carry out preparatory work.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

on the European Year of Volunteering (2011)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 308 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,³

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,⁴

Whereas:

- (1) The Community and the Member States aim to promote the development of human resources with a view to a high level of employment and combating social exclusion.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 3.1 (q) of the Treaty, the Community contributes to education and training of quality.
- (3) Volunteering constitutes a non-formal learning experience which enables both the development of professional skills and competences as well as a major form of active civic participation. Actions carried out by volunteers of all ages are crucial to the development of democracy, one of the founding principles of the European Union, and contribute to the development of human resources and to the social cohesion.
- (4) In fast-changing societies there is a need to ensure the effectiveness of volunteer-supporting infrastructure to allow more people to engage in voluntary activities. It is therefore important to support peer-learning and the exchange of good practices at Community level.
- (5) The 1997 Intergovernmental Conference adopted Declaration 38 on volunteering,⁵ which was attached to the final act of the Treaty of Amsterdam and recognised the important contribution made by voluntary service activities to developing social solidarity.

³ OJC, .p..

⁴ OJC, .p..

⁵ Declaration 38 on voluntary service activities, see: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.html>.

- (6) In its Communication of June 1997 on promoting the role of voluntary organisations and foundations in Europe,⁶ the Commission emphasised three aspects of voluntary organisations and foundations: the economic aspect of creating jobs, the social aspect of helping define social policies and thereby contributing to social progress and the political aspect, fostering democracy, citizenship and civic participation.
- (7) Following the 2001 White Paper on Youth,⁷ volunteering was recognised in 2002 by the Member States as a key aspect of youth policy and Member States agreed on common objectives for voluntary activities of young people within the Open Method of Coordination for Youth.⁸
- (8) In December 2006, the European Economic and Social Committee asked the European Commission ‘to announce a Year of Volunteers, and to publish a White Paper on voluntary activity and active citizenship in Europe at the earliest opportunity’.⁹
- (9) In March 2008, the European Parliament adopted a report on the ‘Role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion’ which encouraged Member States and regional and local authorities to recognise the value of volunteering in promoting social and economic cohesion.¹⁰
- (10) In July 2008 the European Parliament adopted a written Declaration calling for a European Year of Volunteering in 2011.¹¹
- (11) On 20 November 2008, the Council adopted a Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across Europe, which aims to increase cross-border volunteering amongst young people within the EU.¹²
- (12) Volunteering is targeted by several community programmes that focus on mobility in volunteering, such as the European Voluntary Service of the Youth in Action programme, the Life Long Learning programme and the Europe for Citizens programme.
- (13) There exists a large variety of voluntary activities throughout Europe which should be preserved and developed further.
- (14) Volunteering has the potential to contribute to the harmonious development of European societies. Voluntary activities constitute a rich non-formal learning experience which enhances professional skills and competences, contributes to employability and a sense of solidarity, develops social skills, smoothes integration into society and fosters civic participation.

⁶ Doc. COM (97) 241 final of 06.06.1997;.

⁷ Doc. ‘A new impetus for European youth’, COM (2001) 681 final of 21.11.2001.

⁸ Doc. COM(2004)337 final.

⁹ Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee: ‘Voluntary activity: its role in European society and its impact’, Doc. SOC/243 — CESE 1575/2006.

¹⁰ Doc. A6/0070/2008, Report on the role of volunteering in contributing to economic and social cohesion’ <DocRef>(2007/2149(INI)), </DocRef><Commission>Committee on Regional Development, rapporteur: Marian Harkin.

¹¹ Written Declaration 0030/2008 of 15 July 2008.

¹² Council Recommendation of 20 November 2008 on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union (2008/C 319/03).

- (15) Despite this, the potential of volunteering is still not fully realised. A European Year of Volunteering will provide the opportunity to demonstrate in a European context that volunteering increases civic participation. It can help foster a sense of belonging and commitment of citizens to their society at all levels — local, regional, national and European.
- (16) The Year 2011 will be the 10th Anniversary of the 2001 International Year of Volunteers of the United Nations.
- (17) This Decision establishes a financial envelope, which is to constitute the prime reference for the budgetary authority within the meaning of point 37 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management¹³.
- (18) The objectives of the proposed European Year cannot be fully achieved at Member States level due to the need for transnational exchange of information and the Community-wide dissemination of good practice, and can therefore, by reason of the scale of the proposed action, be better achieved at Community level. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in Article 5 of the EC Treaty, this Decision does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve those objectives,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Subject

The year 2011 shall be designated as the 'European Year of Volunteering' (hereinafter referred to as 'the European Year').

Article 2

Objectives

The overall purpose of the European Year shall be to encourage and support — notably through the exchange of experience and good practices — the efforts of the Member States, local and regional authorities and civil society to create the conditions conducive to volunteering in the European Union.

The objectives of the European Year shall be to:

1. **Work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU** - To anchor volunteering as part of promoting civic participation and people-to-people activities in an EU context.

¹³ OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

2. **Empower volunteer organisations and improve the quality of volunteering** - To facilitate volunteering and to encourage networking, mobility, cooperation and synergies between volunteer organisations and other sectors in an EU context.

3. **Reward and recognise volunteering activities** - To encourage appropriate incentives for individuals, companies and volunteer-development organisations and gain more systematic recognition for volunteering at EU level and in the Member States by policy makers, civil society organisations and employers for skills and competences developed through volunteering.

4. **Raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering** - To raise general awareness of the importance of volunteering as an expression of civic participation which contributes to issues which are of common concern of all Member States, such as a harmonious societal development and economic cohesion

Article 3

Initiatives involved

1. The measures to be taken to achieve the objectives set out in Article 2 shall include the following initiatives organised at Community, national, regional or local level linked to the objectives of the European Year:

- exchange of experience and good practices;
- dissemination of results of related studies and research;
- conferences, events and initiatives to promote debate and raise awareness of the importance and value of volunteering and to celebrate the efforts of volunteers;
- information and promotion campaigns to disseminate key messages.

2. Details of the initiatives referred to in paragraph 1 are set out in the Annex.

Article 4

Cooperation with the Member States

Each Member State shall appoint a body responsible for organising its participation in the European Year (hereinafter referred to as national coordinating body). It shall inform the Commission of that appointment within one month of the adoption of this Decision.

Each Member State shall ensure that the aforementioned body properly involves a wide range of stakeholders at national, regional and local level.

The national coordinating body shall be responsible for drafting the national programme/actions and priorities of the Year in accordance with the objectives listed in Article 2 and according to the specifications of the Annex.

Article 5

Coordination at Community level and implementation

The Commission shall convene meetings of the national coordinators to coordinate implementation of the European Year and to exchange information on implementation at national level.

The Commission shall also convene meetings of representatives of European organisations or bodies active in the field of volunteering and stakeholders to assist the Commission in implementing the European Year at Community level.

The Commission shall implement the present Decision at Community level.

The Member States, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions will be associated in the activities.

Article 6

Financial provisions

1. Measures which are Community-wide in nature, referred to in part A of the Annex, shall give rise to a procurement contract or the award of grants financed from the general budget of the EU.
2. Measures which are Community-wide in nature, referred to in part B of the Annex, may be subsidised by the general budget of the European Communities.
3. The Commission may give a grant to each national coordinator as foreseen under Article 4 in accordance with the procedure referred to in part C of the Annex.

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Article 7

Budget

1. The budget for implementing this Decision for the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011 is EUR 6 000 000.
2. Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial framework.

Article 8

International cooperation

For the purpose of the European Year, the Commission may cooperate with appropriate international organisations, in particular with the United Nations and the Council of Europe, taking care to ensure the visibility of the EU's participation.

Article 9

Consistency and complementarity

The Commission together with the Member States shall ensure that the measures provided for in this Decision are consistent with other Community, national and regional schemes and initiatives that help attain the objectives of the European Year.

Article 10

Protection of Community financial interests

1. The Commission shall ensure that, when actions financed under the present Decision are implemented, the financial interests of the Community are protected by the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by effective checks and by the recovery of the amounts unduly paid and, if irregularities are detected, by effective, proportional and dissuasive penalties, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests¹⁴ and Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning the on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities¹⁵, and with Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)¹⁶.
2. With regard to the Community actions financed under this Decision, the notion of irregularity referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 shall mean any infringement of a provision of Community law or any infringement of a contractual obligation resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the general budget of the Communities, or budgets managed by them, by an unjustified item of expenditure.
3. The Commission shall reduce, suspend or recover the amount of financial assistance granted for an action if it finds irregularities, particularly non-compliance with the provisions of this Decision or of the individual decision or contract granting the financial support in question, or if it transpires that, without Commission approval having being sought, the action has undergone significant change that conflicts with its nature or with its implementing conditions.
4. If the time limits have not been observed or if only part of the allocated financial assistance is justified by the progress made with implementing an action, the Commission shall request the beneficiary to submit observations within a specified period. If the beneficiary does not give a satisfactory answer, the Commission may

¹⁴ OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1.

¹⁵ OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2.

¹⁶ OJ L 136, 31.5.1999, p. 1

cancel the remaining financial assistance and demand repayment of sums already paid.

5. Any amount unduly paid shall be repaid to the Commission. Interest shall be added to any sums not repaid in due time under the conditions laid down in the Financial Regulation.

Article 11

Monitoring and evaluation

By 31 December 2012, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the initiatives provided for in this Decision.

Article 12

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, [...]

*For the Council
The President
[...]*

ANNEX

MEASURES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3

As a guiding principle, implementation of the European Year of Volunteering will build on the ownership, large-scale mobilisation and active involvement of civil society and other stakeholders. In addition, implementation will be carried out through the following measures:

A. DIRECT COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Financing will generally take the form of direct purchase of goods and services under existing framework contracts.

1. Information and promotion campaigns including:

- high visibility events and forums for exchanging experience and good practices;
- contest with or without prizes;
- cooperation with the private sector, broadcasters and other media as partners for disseminating information on the European Year of Volunteering;
- the production of material and tools for media available throughout the Community to stimulate public interest;
- measures to publicise the results and raise the profile of Community programmes, schemes and initiatives contributing to the objectives of the European Year of Volunteering;
- the establishment of an information website on Europa, including a portal for promoters of projects on volunteering, to guide them through the various Community programmes and initiatives.

2. Other initiatives:

- surveys and studies at Community level to assess and report on the preparation, effectiveness, impact and long-term monitoring of the European Year of Volunteering.

B. COFINANCING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

High-visibility events on a European scale that aim to raise awareness of the objectives of the European Year of Volunteering, possibly organised in cooperation with the Presidencies in office during 2011, may receive a Community grant of up to 80 % of the total cost.

C. COFINANCING NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Each National coordinator shall submit a single application for Community funding. That grant application shall describe the coordinator's work programme or the action to be funded and promote the European Year. The grant application shall be accompanied by a detailed budget setting out the total costs of the initiatives/work programme proposed and the amount and sources of co-funding. The Community grant can cover up to 80 % of the total costs.

The Commission shall determine the indicative amounts available for grants to each National coordinator and the final deadline for submission of the applications. The criteria should take into account the population, the cost of living and a fixed amount per Member State to guarantee a minimum level of activities.

The final amounts awarded shall be determined on the basis of the individual grant applications submitted by the national coordinating body. The maximum Community co-financing is set at 80 % of the total eligible cost.

The work programmes/actions shall include:

- (a) Meetings and events connected with the objectives of the European Year, including national events to launch and promote the European Year, create a catalyst effect and provide open space for debate on concrete initiatives.
- (b) Mutual learning seminars at national, regional and local level;
- (c) Information, educational and promotional campaigns at national, regional and local level, including the organisation of awards and competitions;
- (d) Cooperation with the media.

D. INITIATIVES NOT RECEIVING ANY COMMUNITY FINANCIAL AID

The Community will grant non-financial support, including written authorisation to use the logo, once developed, and other materials associated with the European Year of Volunteering, to initiatives carried out by public or private organisations, in so far as they provide assurances to the Commission that the initiatives in question are or will be carried out during 2011 and are likely to make a significant contribution to achieving the objectives of the European Year of Volunteering.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. NAME OF THE PROPOSAL:

European Year of Volunteering

2. ABM / ABB FRAMEWORK

Policy area: Education and Culture

Activity: European Year of Volunteering

3. BUDGET LINES

3.1. Budget lines (operational lines and related technical and administrative assistance lines (ex- B.A lines)) including headings:

15 06 11

3.2. Duration of the action and of the financial impact:

01.01.2011 – 31.12.2011

3.3. Budgetary characteristics:

Budget line	Type of expenditure		New	EFTA contribution	Contributions from applicant countries	Heading in financial perspective
15 06 11	Non-comp	Diff ¹⁷ /	YES	NO	NO	[3B]

¹⁷ Differentiated appropriations

4. SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

4.1. Financial Resources

4.1.1. Summary of commitment appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA)

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Expenditure type	Section no.		Year 2011	2012	n + 2	n + 3	n + 4	n + 5 and later	Total
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Operational expenditure¹⁸

Commitment Appropriations (CA)	8.1.	a	6.000						6.000
Payment Appropriations (PA)		b	4.000	2.000					6.000

Administrative expenditure within reference amount¹⁹

Technical & administrative assistance (NDA)	8.2.4.	c							
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TOTAL REFERENCE AMOUNT

Commitment Appropriations		a+c	6.000						6.000
Payment Appropriations		b+c	4.000	2.000					6.000

Administrative expenditure not included in reference amount²⁰

Human resources and associated expenditure (NDA)	8.2.5.	d	0.674	0.186					0.860
Administrative costs, other than human resources and associated costs, not included in reference amount (NDA)	8.2.6.	e	0.106	0.019					0.125

Total indicative financial cost of intervention²¹

TOTAL CA including cost of Human Resources		a+c +d +e	6.780	0.205					6.985
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¹⁸ Expenditure that does not fall under Chapter 15 01 of the Title 15 concerned.

¹⁹ Expenditure within article 15 01 04 of Title 15.

²⁰ Expenditure within chapter 15 01 other than articles 15 01 04 or 15 01 05.

²¹ The Commission has proposed within the preliminary draft budget for the year 2010 to attribute EUR 2.000.000 for the preparatory actions of the year. Adequate human resources will be allocated in 2010 for these preparatory actions.

TOTAL PA including cost of Human Resources		b+c +d +e	4.780	2.205					6.985
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Co-financing details

If the proposal involves co-financing by Member States, or other bodies (please specify which), an estimate of the level of this co-financing should be indicated in the table below (additional lines may be added if different bodies are foreseen for the provision of the co-financing):

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Co-financing body		Year 2011	Year 2012	n + 2	n + 3	n + 4	n + 5 and later	Total
Member States	f	0.675	0.000					0.675
TOTAL CA including co-financing	a+c +d+ e+f	7.455	0.205					7.660

4.1.2. Compatibility with Financial Programming

- ☒ Proposal is compatible with existing financial programming.
- ☐ Proposal will entail reprogramming of the relevant heading in the financial perspective.
- ☐ Proposal may require application of the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement²² (i.e. flexibility instrument or revision of the financial perspective).

4.1.3. Financial impact on Revenue

- ☒ Proposal has no financial implications on revenue
- ☐ Proposal has financial impact – the effect on revenue is as follows:

4.2. Human Resources FTE (including officials, temporary and external staff) – see detail under point 8.2.1.

Annual requirements	2011	2012	n + 3	n + 4	n + 5 and later
Total number of human resources	6	2			

²² See points 19 and 24 of the Interinstitutional agreement.

5. CHARACTERISTICS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1. Need to be met in the short or long term

Volunteering has the potential to contribute to the harmonious development of European societies because it is a frequent expression of civic participation.

Europe has a strong tradition of volunteering, often based on membership in civil society organisations. During the past decades, civic participation has undergone significant changes as societies have moved towards greater individualism. This phenomenon is a challenge for volunteering, since the sector now has to adapt to new types and forms of participation.

5.2. Value-added of Community involvement and coherence of the proposal with other financial instruments and possible synergy

The objectives of the European Year cannot be achieved to a sufficient extent solely by action by the Member States, because action at national level alone would not benefit from the European dimension of exchanges and experiences and good practice between Member States targeted on promoting volunteering.

The European Year will constitute an opportunity for the mobilisation of the relevant Community programmes and actions such as Europe for Citizens, Youth for Europe and Life Long Learning and others in 2011 in order to increase overall visibility and the impact of these actions under the Year. This will allow the promotion of a coherent image of the multiplicity of Community projects in the field of volunteering both within and outside the Community, while maximising the development of synergies between programmes.

5.3. Objectives, expected results and related indicators of the proposal in the context of the ABM framework

• Objectives	Expected results	Indicative indicators
• Work towards an enabling environment for volunteering in the EU;	• The European Year of Volunteering should provide input for further policy development; • A dialogue is initiated in Member States on volunteering issues; • A dialogue is initiated between the EU Member States and Europe's developing world partners on volunteering issues.	• Extent of new knowledge and ideas which have been developed with the support of the Year; • Number of good practices identified; Extent of new dialogue on volunteering in/between Member States; • Dialogue sessions organised and number of good practices identified.
• Empower volunteer organisations and to improve the quality of volunteering;	• (Access to) volunteering is facilitated ; • To encourage networking, cooperation, exchange and synergies between volunteer organisations and other sectors; • New inputs for volunteer	• Number of organisations having received new inspiration for organising measures aiming at raising the quality of voluntary schemes; • Degree of intensity of networking, cooperation and synergies between volunteer organisations and other

	organisations;	sectors; • Number of volunteer organisations who have found new partners;
• Reward and recognise volunteering activities;	• Policy makers, civil society organisations, possible employers and the general public at large provide an (increased) recognition to volunteering; • Impact of volunteering to skills and competencies of volunteers is better acknowledged.	• Number of initiatives by policy makers, civil society organisations and employers indicating better recognition of volunteering; • Extent of use of new systems of recognition of the skills and competences acquired through volunteering;
• Raise awareness of the importance of volunteering as an expression of civic participation	• Visibility of volunteering and of its value for the individual and the European society increases • Heightened awareness both within Europe and in partner countries of the value of volunteering.	• Percentage of participants in the European Year stating that the European Year has improved their perception of volunteering; • Extent and tone of press and media coverage of the Year itself and the events and initiatives supported (qualitative and quantitative).

5.4. Method of Implementation (indicative)

Centralised management: grants and public procurement organised by the Commission. The Commission may award direct grants without call for proposals to national public sectors bodies/bodies with a public service mission.

6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1. Monitoring system

The design of the monitoring framework will be mainly the responsibility of the Commission in consultation with the Member States. The monitoring system must be coherent with the data needed to furnish the indicators (section 3.3).

An external study on volunteering in Europe will be launched in 2009 to gather basic data that can be used to monitor the implementation of the year and its impact

6.2. Evaluation

6.2.1. *Ex-ante evaluation*

An ex-ante evaluation was carried out during the first trimester 2009. It came to the conclusion that the European Year of Volunteering 2011 will seek to increase the awareness of the added value of volunteering at all levels - EU, national, regional and local - and to improve the quality and the policy framework of volunteering. In this way, it will address current challenges, European societies are facing.

On the basis of a comparison between different options for implementation, the ex-ante evaluation recommends the option of a centralised action at Community level with association of the Member States. It will also encourage the involvement of civil society.

This option has the potential to achieve significant political impact at national and European level in contributing to the development of an enabling environment for volunteering in the European Union.

6.2.2. *Measures taken following an intermediate/ex-post evaluation (lessons learned from similar experiences in the past)*

The previous experience as indicated in the ex post evaluation of the European Year of Education through Sport²³ shows that European Years:

- have proven to be an efficient instrument in putting European political issues at the top of the policy agenda. The broad level of participation within a limited timeframe has helped to harness political support and pave the way for broader **political commitments**;
- are designed to involve a range of stakeholders with a view to publicising, debating, exchanging views on a specific theme. They are therefore an effective tool in raising **awareness**;
- are efficient instruments for creating **synergies** between different areas of intervention at EU, Member States and regional/local levels;

²³ "Evaluation externe (ex post) de l'année européenne de l'éducation par le sport AEES 2004"

- tend to have more added value as compared to individual interventions by Member States. This has also been important in creating political momentum and contributing to **policy change**.

6.2.3. *Terms and frequency of future evaluation*

The approach adopted will be one of continuous evaluation followed by an assessment of the implementation and impact of the Year.

The evaluation results should be available by mid-2012. This arrangement will allow the Commission to report to the EU institutions by the end of 2012.

7. **ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES**

The Commission must ensure that, when actions financed under the present Decision are implemented, the financial interests of the Community are protected by the application of preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by effective checks and by the recovery of amounts unduly paid and, if irregularities are detected, by effective, proportional and dissuasive penalties, in accordance with Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 and (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and with Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

For the Community actions financed under this Decision, an irregularity as referred to in Article 1(2) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 means any infringement of a provision of Community law or any breach of a contractual obligation resulting from an act or omission by an economic operator which has, or would have, the effect of prejudicing the general budget of the Communities, or budgets managed by them, by an unjustifiable item of expenditure.

8. DETAILS OF RESOURCES

8.1. Objectives of the proposal in terms of their financial cost

Commitment appropriations in EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

(Headings of Objectives, actions and outputs should be provided)	Type of output	Av. cost	Year 2011		Year n+1		Year n+2		TOTAL	
			No. outputs	Total cost	No. outputs	Total cost	No. outputs	Total cost	No. outputs	Total cost
Enabling environment										
National structures (20% national co-funding)		0,100	27	2,700					27	2,700
Thematic conference		0,350	1	0,350					1	0,350
Evaluation		0,250	1	0,250					1	0,250
Sub-total Objective 1			29	3,300					29	3,300
Empowering										
Thematic conference		0,350	1	0,350					1	0,350
Sub-total Objective 2		0,350	1	0,350					1	0,350
Recognition										
Thematic conference		0,350	1	0,350					1	0,350
Sub-total Objective 3		0,350	1	0,350					1	0,350
Awareness raising										
Communication campaign		1,500	1	1,500					1	1,500
Final conference		0,500	1	0,500					1	0,500
Sub-total Objective 4		2,000	2	2,000					2	2,000
TOTAL COST			33	6,000					33	6,000

8.2. Administrative Expenditure

8.2.1. Number and type of human resources

Types of post		Staff to be assigned to management of the action using existing and/or additional resources (number of posts/FTEs)					
		Year 2011	Year 2012	Year n+2	Year n+3	Year n+4	Year n+5
Officials or temporary staff ²⁴ (15 01 01)	A*/AD	3	0,5				
	B*, C*/AST	2	0,5				
Staff financed ²⁵ by art. 15 01 02		1	1				
Other staff ²⁶ financed by art. 15 01 04/05							
TOTAL		6	2				

8.2.2. Description of tasks deriving from the action

A officials: animation of the European Year at the European level and in relation with national coordinators, committee, drawing up invitations to tender, monitoring grants to Member States, information campaign, events, studies, communication, policy follow-up.

B officials: financial monitoring of bids and grants, general assistance to A officials with all tasks.

C officials: assistance with all tasks referred to above.

8.2.3. Sources of human resources (statutory)

When more than one source is stated, please indicate the number of posts originating from each of the sources

- 6 Posts to be redeployed using existing resources within the managing service (internal redeployment)

The needs for human and administrative resources shall be covered within the allocation that can be granted to the managing DG in the framework of the annual allocation procedure in the light of budgetary constraints.

²⁴ Cost of which is NOT covered by the reference amount

²⁵ Cost of which is NOT covered by the reference amount

²⁶ Cost of which is included within the reference amount

8.2.4. *Other Administrative expenditure included in reference amount (XX 01 04/05 – Expenditure on administrative management)*

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Budget line (number and heading)	Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Year n+4	Year n+5 and later	TOTAL
1 Technical and administrative assistance (including related staff costs)							
Executive agencies ²⁷							
Other technical and administrative assistance							
- <i>intra muros</i>							
- <i>extra muros</i>							
Total Technical and administrative assistance							

8.2.5. *Financial cost of human resources and associated costs not included in the reference amount*

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

Type of human resources	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year n+2	Year n+3 and later
Officials and temporary staff (15 01 01)	0,610	0,122		
Staff financed by Art 15 01 02 (auxiliary, END, contract staff, etc.) (specify budget line)	0,064	0,064		
Total cost of Human Resources and associated costs (NOT in reference amount)	0,674	0,186		

²⁷ Reference should be made to the specific legislative financial statement for the Executive Agency(ies) concerned.

Calculation– ***Officials and Temporary agents***

Reference should be made to Point 8.2.1, if applicable

In 2011: 5 x 122.000 €/year = 610.000 €

In 2012: 1 x 122.000 €/year = 122.000 €

Calculation– ***Staff financed under art. 15 01 02***

Reference should be made to Point 8.2.1, if applicable

In 2011 and 2012: 1 x 64.000 €/year = 64.000 €

The needs for human and administrative resources shall be covered within the allocation that can be granted to the managing DG in the framework of the annual allocation procedure in the light of budgetary constraints.

8.2.6 Other administrative expenditure not included in reference amount

EUR million (to 3 decimal places)

	Year 2011	Year 2012	Year n+2	Year n+3 and later	TOTAL
15 01 02 11 01 – Missions	0,049	0,000			0,049
15 01 02 11 02 – Meetings & Conferences	0,057	0,019			0,076
15 01 02 11 03 – Committees ²⁸	0,000	0,000			0,000
15 01 02 11 04 – Studies & consultations	0,000	0,000			0,000
15 01 02 11 05 - Information systems	0,000	0,000			0,000
2 Total Other Management Expenditure (15 01 02 11)	0,106	0,019			0,125
3 Other expenditure of an administrative nature (specify including reference to budget line)	0,000	0,000			0,000
Total Administrative expenditure, other than human resources and associated costs (NOT included in reference amount)	0,106	0,019			0,125

²⁸ Specify the type of committee and the group to which it belongs.

Calculation - ***Other administrative expenditure not included in reference amount***

Missions:

2 missions x 27 Member States x 900 € = 48.600 € (100 % in 2011)

Meetings & Conferences (network of national coordinators):

4 meetings x 27 Member States x 700 € = 75.600 € (75 % in 2011 and 25 % in 2012)

The needs for human and administrative resources shall be covered within the allocation that can be granted to the managing DG in the framework of the annual allocation procedure in the light of budgetary constraints.